

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In brief, claims 1-32 have been canceled, without prejudice; and new claims 33-53 have been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims, in original or amended form, at a later time.

1 – 32. (Canceled)

33. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a bone discontinuity; and

deforming the bone plate after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective bone regions to which the anchor portions are secured.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the bone plate to each of at least two bones.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of placing bone screws through openings of the anchor portions and into the respective bone regions.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions adjacent a volar surface of the radius bone.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a distal portion of the radius bone.

39. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of twisting the anchor portions relative to one another.

40. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of bending the anchor portions relative to one another.

41. (New) The method of claim 33, the bone plate having a bridge region disposed between the anchor portions, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate within the bridge region.

42. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of adjusting the relative angular disposition of the bone regions to more closely approximate a natural alignment of the bone regions.

43. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming is performed with at least one tool, the method further comprising a step of engaging the bone plate with the at least one tool before the step of deforming.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of engaging includes a step of placing a portion of the at least one tool into an opening of the bone plate.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of placing includes a step of rotating the at least one tool into threaded engagement with the bone plate.

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the step of engaging includes a step of gripping the bone plate with the at least one tool.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of deforming the bone plate at a predefined deformation region of the bone plate, and wherein the step of gripping includes a step of gripping the bone plate at spaced sites flanking the predefined deformation region.

48. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a unitary bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a bone discontinuity by placing fasteners through apertures defined by each anchor portion; and

applying a deforming torque to the bone plate after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective bone regions to which the anchor portions are secured.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of securing includes a step of placing bone screws through the apertures and into the respective bone regions.

50 (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone or a finger bone.

51. (New) The method of claim 48, the bone plate having a bridge region disposed between the anchor portions, wherein the step of applying a deforming torque includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate within the bridge region.

52. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of applying a deforming torque is performed with at least one tool, further comprising a step of placing the at least one tool in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of placing the at least one tool includes a step of placing a pair of tools in threaded engagement with spaced

apertures of the bone plate, and wherein the step of applying a deforming torque includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate between the spaced apertures using the pair of tools.

54. (New) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a unitary bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a discontinuity in a bone by placing bone screws through apertures defined by the anchor portions;

placing at least one tool into a pair of openings disposed at spaced positions along the bone plate; and

applying a deforming torque to the bone plate via the at least one tool after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective regions of the bone to which the anchor portions are secured.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a distal portion of a radius bone.

56. The method of claim 54, wherein the step of placing includes a step of placing the at least one tool in threaded engagement with the pair of openings.